

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data processing device with an instruction translator comprising:

a processor core; and

a memory interface portion arranged between said processor core and an external memory mapped into a predetermined external memory space,

said memory interface portion including a fetch circuit for receiving an address value for access to said external memory space from said processor core, and fetching the data at said address in said external memory, said data being an instruction nonnatives to said processor, an instruction native to said processor or data to be processed;

a translator for translating the instruction nonnative to said processor core fetched by said fetch circuit from said external memory into the native instruction; and

a select circuit for selectively applying the data read from said external memory space and the instruction prepared by translating the instruction read from said external memory space by said translator to said processor core depending on whether the address value for the access from said processor core to said external memory space is in a predetermined region or not.

2. The data processing device with the instruction translator according to claim 1, wherein

said fetch circuit includes:

an address conversion circuit for effecting predetermined conversion on the address for the access from said processor core to said external memory, and

a circuit for selectively applying the address sent from said processor core and the address output from said address conversion circuit to said external memory depending on whether said address is within said predetermined region or not.

3. The data processing device with the instruction translator according to claim 2, wherein

5 said conversion circuit includes a division circuit for dividing the input address value by n-th (n: natural number) power of 2 and outputting the result.

4. The data processing device with the instruction translator according to claim 3, wherein

said division circuit includes a shifter for shifting rightward the input address value by n bits.

5. The data processing device with the instruction translator according to claim 1, wherein

a bus width of an instruction bus in said processor core is different from a bus width of a data bus of said external memory; and

5 said select circuit includes:

a bus width changing circuit having an input connected to said external memory and an output of the same width as the bus width of the instruction bus of said processor for performing conversion between the bus width of the data bus of said external memory and the bus width of the instruction bus in said processor, and outputting the result, and

10 a multiplexer having inputs connected to the outputs of said bus width changing circuit and said translator, respectively, and an output connected to said instruction bus of said processor core for selectively applying to said processor core an instruction output from said bus width changing circuit and an instruction output from said translator, depending on whether the address value for the access from said processor core to said external memory space is within a predetermined region or not.

6. The data processing device with the instruction translator according to claim 1, wherein

said processor core has an instruction bus, an instruction address bus, a data bus and a data address bus, and

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5           said data processing device further includes:  
          a multiplexer having inputs connected to said instruction address  
          bus and said data address bus, respectively, for selecting said instruction  
          address bus or said data address bus for application to said fetch circuit in  
          response to the control signal applied from said processor core, and  
10           a second multiplexer for electrically coupling said memory bus to  
          said instruction bus or said data bus, in response to said control signal  
          applied from said processor core.

7. A memory interface device with instruction translator to be  
arranged between a processor core and an external memory mapped into a  
predetermined external memory space, comprising:

5           a fetch circuit for receiving an address value for access to said  
          external memory space from said processor core, and fetching the data at  
          said address in said external memory, said data being an instruction non  
          native to said processor, an instruction native to said processor, or data to  
          be processed;

10           a translator for translating the instruction nonnative to said  
          processor core fetched by said fetch circuit from said external memory into  
          the instruction native to said processor; and

          a select circuit for selectively applying the data read from said  
          external memory space and the instruction prepared by translating the  
          instruction read from said external memory space by said translator to said  
15           processor core depending on whether the address value for the access from  
          said processor core to said external memory space is in a predetermined  
          region or not.

8. The memory interface device with the instruction translator  
according to claim 7, wherein

          said fetch circuit includes:  
          an address conversion circuit for effecting predetermined conversion  
5           on the address for the access from said processor core to said external  
          memory core, and

a circuit for selectively applying the address sent from said processor core and the address output from said address conversion circuit to said external memory depending on whether said address is within said predetermined region or not.

9. The memory interface device with the instruction translator according to claim 8, wherein

said conversion circuit includes a division circuit for dividing the input address value by n-th (n: natural number) power of 2 and outputting the result.

10. The memory interface device with the instruction translator according to claim 9, wherein

said division circuit includes a shifter for shifting rightward the input address value by n bits.

11. The memory interface device with the instruction translator according to claim 7, wherein

a bus width of an instruction bus in said processor core is different from a bus width of a data bus of said external memory; and

said select circuit includes:

a bus width changing circuit having an input connected to said external memory and an output of the same width as the bus width of the instruction bus of said processor, for performing conversion between the bus width of the data bus of said external memory and the bus width of the instruction bus in said processor, and outputting the result, and

a multiplexer having inputs connected to the outputs of said bus width changing circuit and said translator, respectively, and an output connected to said instruction bus of said processor core for selectively applying to said processor core an instruction output from said bus width changing circuit and an instruction output from said translator depending on whether the address value for the access from said processor core to said external memory space is within a predetermined region or not.

12. The memory interface device with the instruction translator according to claim 7, wherein

said processor core has an instruction bus, an instruction address bus, a data bus and a data address bus, and

5 said data processing device further includes:

a multiplexer having inputs connected to said instruction address bus and said data address bus, respectively, for selecting said instruction address bus or said data address bus for application to said fetch circuit in response to the control signal applied from said processor core, and

10 a second multiplexer for electrically coupling said memory bus to said instruction bus or said data bus in response to said control signal applied from said processor core.

13. A data reading method for reading data from an external memory mapped into a predetermined external memory space to a processor core, comprising the steps of:

5 receiving an address value for access from said processor core to said external memory space, and fetching the data at said address in said external memory, said data being an instruction nonnative to said processor, an instruction native to said processor, or data to be processed;

translating the instruction nonnative to said processor core fetched from said external memory into the instruction native to the processor; and

10 selectively applying the data read from said external memory space and the instruction prepared by the translation of the instruction read from said external memory space to said processor core depending on whether the address value for the access from said processor core to said external memory space is in a predetermined region or not.

14. The data reading method according to claim 13, wherein said fetching step includes the steps of:

effecting predetermined conversion on the address for the access from said processor core to said external memory core, and

5 selectively applying the address sent from said processor core and

the address subjected to said predetermined conversion to said external memory depending on whether said address is within said predetermined region or not.

15. The data reading method according to claim 14, wherein said converting step includes a step of dividing the input address value by n-th (n: natural number) power of 2 and outputting the result.

16. The data reading method according to claim 15, wherein said dividing and outputting step includes a step of shifting rightward the input address value by n bits.

17. The data reading method according to claim 13, wherein a bus width of an instruction bus in said processor core is different from a bus width of a data bus of said external memory; and said selectively applying step includes the steps of:  
5 changing the data width of the data fetched by said external memory to the bus width of the instruction bus within said processor core, and selectively applying to said processor core the data having the changed bus width and the translated native instruction depending on whether the address value for the access from said processor core to said  
10 external memory space is within a predetermined region or not.

18. The data reading method according to claim 13, wherein said processor core has an instruction bus, an instruction address bus, a data bus and a data address bus, and  
5 said data reading method further includes the steps of:  
selecting the address on said instruction address bus or the address  
on said data address bus for inputting the selected address to said fetching  
step in response to the control signal applied from said processor core, and  
electrically coupling said memory bus to said instruction bus or said  
data bus in response to said control signal applied from said processor core.